

(a) After the vote of this state's electors is completed, if the final list of electors differs from any list that the [Governor] previously included on a certificate of ascertainment prepared and transmitted under 3 U.S.C. Section 6, the [Secretary of State] immediately shall prepare an amended certificate of ascertainment and transmit it to the [Governor] for the [Governor's] signature.

(b) The [Governor] immediately shall deliver the signed amended certificate of ascertainment to the [Secretary of State] and a signed duplicate original of the amended certificate of ascertainment to all individuals entitled to receive this state's certificate of ascertainment, indicating that the amended certificate of ascertainment is to be substituted for the certificate of ascertainment previously submitted.

(c) The [Secretary of State] shall prepare a certificate of vote. The electors on the final list shall sign the certificate. The [Secretary of State] shall process and transmit the signed certificate with the amended certificate of ascertainment under 3 U.S.C. Sections 9, 10, and 11.

**SECTION 9. UNIFORMITY OF APPLICATION AND CONSTRUCTION.** In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

**SECTION 10. REPEALS.** The following are repealed:

- (1) . . .
- (2) . . .
- (3) . . .

**SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This [act] takes effect . . .

#### NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Behind me are the faces of 135 men and women. They are the faces of those who paid the ultimate price serving and protecting us this past year so that our families and our children can live safe and enjoy our freedom. As you can see, freedom isn't free.

You may not know or recognize these faces, but you know the faces of others who have served or that are serving today. They are the faces of our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and friends. Some were ambushed and executed. Some lost their lives responding to a call to save a life, someone who called for help.

Tacoma police officer Jake Gutierrez, from my home State of Washington, is one of the faces behind me. He lost his life in the line of duty just last month while trying to protect a woman from domestic violence.

Jake was supposed to have exchanged wedding vows with his fiancée in just a few weeks. Instead, she and his three daughters and granddaughter attended his funeral and tried to picture a life without Jake.

Tragically, again last month, a time meant for celebration was filled with another Washington family's sorrow. Veteran officer Mike McLaughry from

the Mount Vernon Police Department was shot in the head while responding to a call for help. Today his children, wife, friends, and family sit by his hospital bed and his life now hangs in the balance in the hands of God and his doctors.

This feeling of loss is one that I am also familiar with. In 1982, my partner and best friend, Sergeant Sam Hicks, was shot to death attempting to arrest a murder suspect. He left behind his wife and five sons. That was over 30 years ago, but the loss of a loved one is a pain that cannot be forgotten, cannot be erased.

This national day of appreciation is not only a day to reflect and appreciate the service of those who have served, but those that are serving today. They are driving, walking, patrolling your neighborhoods, keeping us safe. They are ready to put their lives on the line, yes, but every day they do so much more for us that goes unnoticed:

The officer that took the stolen bike report on Christmas Day and the next day delivered a new bicycle to that little boy's home;

How about the officer who anonymously buys groceries for a needy family;

The officer who counseled a little girl who was being bullied because of the clothes she wore and then bought her a new set of clothes;

How about the officer who went to a call where he had to cradle a 2-month-old baby in his arms, giving CPR to his little, fragile blue face, hoping for the best news, fearing the worst—and getting the worst—and then headed off to his next call;

The officer that held the hand of a dying man after a motorcycle accident and then sharing his last words with his family;

The officer who was spit on, ridiculed, and insulted by a man threatening to kill the officer and his wife and then minutes later saving that same man from taking his own life with a butcher knife.

These men and women are coaches, volunteers, and mentors, helping people find jobs, feeding the homeless, helping them find homes, and sometimes even taking them into their own homes. These are real people. They are your neighbors, they are your friends, and they are us. This is not a job for them. It is a calling. They serve because they want to help. They want to make a difference. They serve with the heart of a servant.

On this day, let us take a moment to appreciate all members of the law enforcement community across this Nation and their families by putting a blue light in your window or on your front porch. This is not just a sign of appreciation for law enforcement across this country, but a sign, a small symbol of unity for us all. We need that now in our Nation more than anything. Help us remember that we are one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Most people don't know, but I am a big James Brown fan and I really like the way he puts it in a not so well-known song from the sixties about America. He says:

America is the greatest country in the world. America is the greatest country in the world . . . Now Black and White they may fight, but when the enemy comes, we get together and we run 'em out of sight.

This is a Black man in the sixties with these positive words about our country.

Mr. Speaker, I say this: That we take James Brown's words, we take his advice, and we get together. The enemy is here. That enemy is hate. We get together and we run them out of sight.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to observe a moment of silence, please, for two officers who were killed in Florida just today on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. These are two more officers killed today, just hours ago.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another year.

At the beginning of this new day, we are grateful as individuals and as a nation for all the blessings we have been given.

We ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House as they reconvene for this first session. May they anticipate the opportunities and difficulties that are before them, and before so many Americans, with steadfast determination to work together toward solutions that will benefit their countrymen. Grant that they be worthy of the responsibilities they have been given by their constituents and truly be the people You have called them to be.

May Your Spirit, O God, be in all of our hearts and minds and encourage us to do the works of peace and justice now and always.

May all that we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOMACK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### REMEMBERING DR. BILLY BERT BAKER

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to an admired, respected, and visionary educator, and a genuinely terrific person, Dr. Billy Bert Baker, of Gilbert, Arkansas, who passed away on Friday, January 6, at the age of 84.

My relationship with Dr. Baker goes back decades. He was a family friend. After spending 17 years as a faculty member and administrator at my alma mater, Arkansas Tech, in 1974, he became the first employee of North Arkansas College in Harrison, served the college for more than 27 years, was its founding president, and retired at the age of 68.

Under his leadership, Northark achieved several firsts, one of the most noteworthy being the 1993 merger of Northark and Twin Lakes Technical College, the first consolidation of a community college and a technical college in Arkansas. Billy Bert was also instrumental in the creation of both Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville and the ASU—Mountain Home campus.

Dr. Baker's own unofficial motto was to "help people grow, one at a time." That is exactly what he spent his life doing. He touched the lives of thousands—made them better men and women—and his legacy continues to enrich the lives of people throughout northern and northwest Arkansas through the institutions of higher learning that he envisioned decades ago.

Rest in peace, Dr. Baker. My deepest condolences are with Bonnie, your wife of 63 years; your two sons, daughter, grandchildren; and the entire Northark family in this time of great loss.

#### CHINA SHOULD TAKE THEIR CRIMINAL ILLEGALS BACK OR LOSE VISAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Qian Wu was held up at knifepoint and bru-

tally assaulted. Her attacker, a Chinese citizen who was illegally in America, was captured and sent off to prison for the assault. He should have been deported as soon as he finished his sentence, but China would not take back the outlaw. So, under American law, the attacker could not be held indefinitely in our prison and was turned loose on American streets. As soon as he was released from prison, he tracked down Qian Wu and murdered her.

Mr. Speaker, the law requires that a person who illegally enters the United States and is ordered deported must be repatriated to their native country. The lack of cooperation from countries that refuse or delay repatriation allows criminals like Qian Wu's killer to remain in America and commit more crimes.

My bill, the Timely Repatriation Act of 2017, restricts diplomatic visas to countries that deny the repatriation of criminal aliens deported from the United States. Countries like China must take back their lawfully deported criminal citizens or pay the price of losing diplomatic visas.

And that is just the way it is.

#### FAKE NEWS INCLUDES CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a good example of fake news appeared in Sunday's New York Times. It is a column headlined, "As Trump Denies Climate Change, These Kids Die." This may be a new high—or maybe a new low—for climate alarmists and their exaggerations.

Two facts: first, most severe and persistent droughts occurred decades ago, not recently; and second, there is little connection between climate change and extreme weather, in general, according to numerous studies.

Climate alarmists tend to ignore scientific evidence and encourage media hype, and, of course, the liberal media is all too willing to go along. Climate discussions should be based on good science, not politically correct science.

#### GUANTANAMO BAY DETERS TERRORISTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month I was grateful that President Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law—legislation that will clearly prevent the closure of the prison at Guantanamo Bay. Sadly, this has not stopped the President from releasing murderous terrorists, which, by weakness, encourages more attacks against American families that we can anticipate in the future.

Under President Obama, nearly 150 detainees have been released; and just last week, the President released four more hardened terrorists, creating a recruiting environment with a legacy of not being serious about murderous attacks in the future. The President should promote a legacy of peace, not more attacks.

The administration's own numbers reveal that as many as one-third of the terrorists from Guantanamo return to the battlefield to kill American families. In March, senior officials from the administration even testified that former prisoners from Guantanamo were responsible for American deaths.

I appreciate that President-elect Donald Trump does not support releasing terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, and I look forward to working with him to keep Guantanamo open. He knows that imprisonment is a deterrent to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2334

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, just before Christmas, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution condemning Israel.

I believe it goes almost without saying that Israel is our most trusted ally in the Middle East, which is why I find this so troubling, Mr. Speaker. The Obama administration had the power to veto the resolution and support one of our only allies in the region, but President Obama, less than a month from leaving office, dictated the United States would sit on the sidelines.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am committed to preserving our alliance with Israel and ensuring a lasting peace is found in the region—a position that has been expressed multiple times on the floor of this House by my colleagues—and I believe we can't afford to sit on the sidelines anymore.

Mr. Speaker, the United States supports Israel. The Obama administration is leaving behind a failed foreign policy legacy, but our alliance with Israel will endure.

Former Senator Jesse Helms believed the United Nations required fundamental reform to address these kinds of problems. I believe this latest action by the Security Council underscores that need.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.